

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12, 16, 20, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 37 are all of the pending claims, with claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 28, 31, 34 and 37 being written in independent form. By virtue of this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 27, 30, 33 and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Specification:

As requested by the Examiner, Applicant provides the corrected Abstract referred to in the December 2, 2005 Amendment. If further amendments to the Abstract are believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

II. Allowable Subject Matter:

A paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36 and 37 would be allowed if they were rewritten in independent form. To capture allowable subject matter, Applicant amends independent claim 1 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 27, amends independent claim 12 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 30, amends claims 16 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 33 and amends independent claim 20 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 36. Applicant also rewrites allowable claims 28, 31, 34 and 37 in independent form.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 16, 20, 26, 29, 32 and 35 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US 4,700,188 to James ("James") in view of US Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0004659 to Hayashi et al. ("Hayashi"); and claims 3-8 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over James in view of Hayashi, and further in view of US Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0033020 to Tonomura et al. ("Tonomura").

As noted above, Applicant has revised all of the pending claims to include allowable subject matter, as identified by the Examiner, thereby rendering all of the raised rejections on prior art grounds moot.

IV. Prior Art Citations:

At numbered paragraph 9 of the Office Action, The Examiner lists 6 references that are not relied upon but are considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to list all 6 references on a PTO-892 Form to make the same formally of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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